

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00140 010945Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 CA-01
/103 W

-----113066 012135Z /41

R 010900Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8961
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0140

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PDIP PINS LA GW GB
SUBJECT: SOME WESTERN EMBASSY REACTIONS TO CONTINUING LPDR
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: A 77 VIENTIANE 1587, B 77 VIENTIANE 1531, C 77
VIENTIANE 1635

1. A WEST GERMAN EMBOFF TOLD US FEBRUARY 1 THAT HIS
EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN TO LODGE A
FORMAL PROTEST OVER LPDR RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENTS OF
DIPLOMATS OUTSIDE CERTAIN POSTED LIMITS (REF A).

2. ACCORDING TO THE EMBOFF, THE MESSAGE FROM BONN
SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY IN ITS PROTEST POINT OUT
THAT A NATION WHICH WAS UNABLE TO ASSURE SECURITY FOR
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00140 010945Z

DIPLOMATS TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL PERHAPS WAS NOT
PREPARED TO RECEIVE FOREIGN MISSIONS AT ALL.

3. THE EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY
THAT THE EMBASSY PROTEST WOULD BE WORDED AS STRONGLY AS
SUGGESTED BY BONN (PARA 2) BUT THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD
POINT OUT THAT LPDR RESTRICTIONS WHICH ESSENTIALLY

REQUIRE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUESTS OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL WERE IN VIOLATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

4. THE WEST GERMAN ALSO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY WAS CONSIDERING LEVYING RESTRICTIONS ON LAO DIPLOMATS IN LONDON SIMILAR TO THOSE PLACED ON BRITISH DIPLOMATS IN VIENTIANE.

5. COMMENT: THE BRITISH HERE HAVE NOTED TO US IN THE PAST THAT WHILE THE COURSE DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 WAS ONE OPTION, THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION AT THIS TIME.

6. WEST GERMAN-LAO RELATIONS, AS NOTED REF B, ARE LESS THAN CORDIAL, AS IS THE CASE WITH REGARD TO WEST GERMAN-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS (REF C). MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO A WEST GERMAN EMBOFF, THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND IS STRONGLY PRO-THAI AND ANTI-COMMUNIST. GIVEN THIS CURRENT CLIMATE OF WEST GERMAN OPINION TOWARD THE REGION AS REPRESENTED IN HER EMBASSIES, BONN'S LACK OF PATIENCE WITH LAO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IS NOT SURPRISING. ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DUAL DC:
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0913
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802103/aaaadjrd.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b77c6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3436595
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME WESTERN EMBASSY REACTIONS TO CONTINUING LPDR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, LA, GE, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b77c6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014